C6185-1
11/24/82

november 1982

American City & County

administration ■ engineering ■ operations

Small Scooters Solve...

...Big Refuse Problem

ACR112 MF2CE1410 00 **
ANDRIA SWARTZ 8111
CONGRESSIONAL INFO SERVICES
4520 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA MD 20814

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

American City & County

Berkshire Common, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

William L. Forestell, editor-in-chief
Tel: 413/499-2550
Gary M. Chaberlain, senior editor
John P. O'Connor, engineering editor
John Foster, senior editor
Martha Eischen, computer talk
Kathleen Richards, editorial assistant
Susan O'Connor, production manager
Gertrude E. Bauer, circulation manager
June Macleod, inquiries manager
Valerie Bassett, art/production assist.
Marianne Faybik, market research

Russell Gilchrist, publisher

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY (USPS-018-000) is published monthly by Morgan-Grampian Publishing Company, a subsidiary of Morgan-Grampian, Inc., Berkshire Common, Pittsfield, MA 01201. Second-class postage paid at Crystal Lake IL. Title registered at U.S. Patent Office.

© Copyright 1982. Morgan-Grampian Publishing Co. All rights reserved, including the right to reproduce the contents of this publication either in whole or in part.

Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to Circulation Manager, AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY, Berkshire Common, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

Subscriptions: AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY is sent on request to qualified local government administrators, department heads, and engineers in the U.S. Subscription rates to others: $30 in the U.S. and $50 in all other countries. Single copies $3.00 in the U.S. The publisher reserves the right to accept or reject any subscription. **Send changes of address** to Circulation Manager.

Reprints: Reprints of individual articles are available through the production Manager, AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY. Microfilm copies of complete issues or reproductions of individual articles from microfilm prints can be obtained from Xerox University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, MI 48109 or Bell & Howell Micro Photo Division, Old Mansfield Road, Wooster, OH 44691.

Advertising Sales Offices:

MID-ATLANTIC, NYC: John L. Winterstella, Two Park Ave., New York, NY 10016. **212-340-9700**

CHICAGO: Bob Coyle, Two North Riverside Plaza, Chicago, IL 60606. **312-346-4611**

CLEVELAND: Warren K. Vieth, 33 One Rockside 77 Center, 6100 West Creek Road, Independence, OH 44131. **216-524-6789**

NEW ENGLAND: David Campbell, Berkshire Common, Pittsfield, MA 01201. **413-499-2550**

ATLANTA: Herb Schmitt and **Susan McBride,** Herb Schmitt & Co, 3255 LaVista Road, Decatur, GA 30033. **404-634-9204**

FORT WORTH: Tony Halbert and **Loy Rooke,** Halbert Co., 3024 Sandage, Fort Wroth, TX 76109. **817-923-9832**

LOS ANGELES: Don Houston, J.J.H. & S., Inc., 119 West Bellevue Drive, Pasadena, Ca 91105. **213-796-9200**

SAN FRANCISCO: Chuck Harrison and **Donald Taylor,** J.J.H. & S., Inc., 57 Post St., Suite 715, San Francisco, CA 94104. **415-392-6794**

ABP BPA

Morgan-Grampian

Publishers of: American City & County, Municipal Index, Contractor, Industrial Distribution, Industrial Product Bulletin, Mart

Executive officers: Domenic A. Mucchetti, President; William J. Adams, Vice President, Pittsfield Operations; John Beadell, Vice President, Circulation Systems; Charles H. Benz, Controller.

Contents

Vol. 97 No. 11

7 WASHINGTON DATELINE

Clean Water rules change ahead

10 NEWS & VIEWS

Toxified groundwater an expensive cleanup

13 CASE HISTORY DIGEST

New powerplants keep bus fleet on schedule

17 COMPUTER APPLICATION NEWS

What to expect when customizing software: **Computer Talk**

NOVEMBER FEATURES

23 **A water plant for the 21st Century**

Northern Virginia moves toward Drought Independence

29 COVER STORY: **Small scooters solve big sanitation problem**

Niceville, Fla., spends less for equipment and gets more service.

31 **Competition sharpens the municipal engineering pencil**

Phoenix, Arizona, lets its PWD bid for its own work.

37 **A look at Soviet municipal services**

A rare glimpse of how the U.S.S.R. keeps its cities clean.

45 **Tap the talents of private industry**

Why data processing service companies are in demand.

47 **Rebuild old roads for less money**

In-place recycling can help stretch limited highway budgets.

50 PRODUCT PROFILE: **Submersible pumps come of age**

What to look for when shopping for these popular pumps.

55 VIEWPOINTS

A Federal update on bridge needs: **FHWA's Romack**

61 THE MARKETPLACE

New Products plus News of Manufacturers

71 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Business Cards and News of Consultants

75 JOB SEARCH & CLASSIFIED

Positions, Used Equipment, Books, Meetings

80 MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

Inflation continues to go down.

On the cover: One of the Cushman scooters used by the City of Niceville, Florida, to collect its refuse makes its rounds. By using scooters to make residential collections, the city was able to put its packers into service as transfer vehicles when a new landfill became necessary.

Municipal Cost Indexes

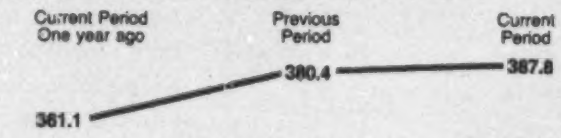
Cost Index Figures of the Month, showing 30-day[1], 12-month changes (1967=100)

ACC MUNICIPAL COST INDEX 313.0 +0.4% +5.3%

Consumer Price Index	292.8	0.2%	5.9%
ACC Construction Cost Index	346.5	0.7	7.3
ACC Construction Materials	308.3	(0.9)	1.6
ACC Motorized Equipment	293.9	1.2	6.7
ACC Energy: Fuels and Power	933.7	0.5	7.3
ACC Consumable Supplies	298.5	0.2	3.3
Producer Price Index	282.4	0.2	4.0

MUNICIPAL TREND TO WATCH

Purchases of Goods and Services, Billions of Dollars



Current Reference Period: **Second Quarter 1982**

Seasonally adjusted annual rate

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT 281.4 +0.2% +5.9%

Agricultural Machinery & Equip.	311.4	0.4%	7.3%
Air Conditioners (12/77 = 100)	135.5	0	3.8
Construction Machinery & Equip.	346.4	0.1	6.6
Electric Motors	288.9	0.3	1.8
Environmental Controls (6/80-100	114.7	0.1	4.7
Fans and Blowers (Ex. Portable)	334.3	0.1	2.8
Generators and Generator Sets	344.3	0.2[2]	6.6
Heating Equipment	238.6	(0.2)[2]	4.7
Industrial Material Handling Equip	285.8	(0.3)[2]	1.8
Integrating & Measuring Inst.	213.1	0	6.0
Internal Combustion Engines	331.5	1.4%	8.5%
Motor Trucks, Light	266.1	0	7.8
Motor Trucks, Heavy	301.6	—	6.5
Office Machines	152.3	0.3[2]	2.3
Passenger Cars	216.2	0.6	5.3
Photographic Equipment	130.3	0	2.0
Pumps, Compressors & Equipment	347.5	0	5.1
Railroad Equipment	354.7	1.5[2]	4.7
Refrig. Compressors (12/77 = 100)	131.2	0[2]	2.4
Switchgear, Switchboard Equip.	260.2	(0.2)	3.3

INDUSTRIAL COMMODITIES 316.3 + 0% +0.6%

Abrasive Products	298.4	0.1%[2]	7.4%
Apparel	193.5	0.2	3.0
Asphalt Roofing	392.5	0.1	(6.7)
Building Paper and Board	243.8	1.9	4.1
Coal	539.1	0.1	6.3
Commercial Furniture	278.0	0.1[2]	7.3
Concrete Products	298.3	0	1.7
Diesel Fuel (2/72 = 100)	795.1	0[2]	(6.6)
Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	226.3	0[2]	(0.4)
Electric Lamps/Bulbs	285.2	0[2]	4.3
Electric Power	415.3	(0.4)	7.6
Electronic Components	175.9	0.1	3.2
Fabricated Structural Metal	304.4	0.2	1.7
Finished Lubricants	351.2	0.1[2]	1.4
Finished Steel Products	348.7	(0.1)	1.1
Flat Glass	226.1	0[2]	3.6
Floor Coverings	179.4	(0.4)	(1.4)
Footwear	247.3	2.3	2.0
Footwear, Rubber	226.7	0.3	2.8
Foundry Products	345.5	0	4.1
Fuel Oil, No. 2 (2/73 = 100)	637.7	(0.4)	(4.6)
Gasoline	694.9	1.3	(4.2)
Glass Containers	357.3	0	6.5
Gypsum Products	253.9	(0.7)	(0.5)
Hardware	280.3	0.5[2]	5.7
Industrial Chemicals	349.7	0[2]	(5.9)
Kerosene (2/73 = 100)	811.0	0	(2.8)
Lumber, Hardwood	264.8	(0.2)	2.6
Lumber, Softwood	323.5	(2.5)%	(7.1)%
Millwork	280.2	(0.6)	2.9
Mixed Fertilizers	270.8	(0.3)	2.4
Motor Vehicle Parts	344.4	0.2	6.2
Natural Gas	1374.8	0.5[2]	22.6
Nonferrous Wire and Cable	202.2	0.1	(1.9)
Paint Materials	302.3	(0.7)	(2.0)
Paper	286.1	(0.3)	1.4
Pesticides	467.2	0.5[2]	4.4
Photographic Supplies	270.5	0	1.6
Plastic Constr. Prod. (12/69 = 100)	147.9	0.8	(6.2)
Plastic Film (12/70 = 100)	213.2	(0.1)	3.1
Plumbing Fixtures & Brass Fittings	274.7	(2.9)	1.3
Plywood	229.3	(1.3)	(6.6)
Portland Cement	335.6	(0.6)	1.2
Prepared Paint	265.1	0[2]	5.7
Refractories	341.2	0.1	11.1
Residual Fuel	1250.0	0.2	0.3
Sand, Gravel & Crushed Stone	283.2	1.2	7.6
Sanitary Papers & Health Prod.	354.6	1.0	1.9
Soaps & Synthetic Detergents	253.0	0.2[2]	5.0
Sporting Goods	209.3	1.5	6.1
Structural Clay Products	258.8	0[2]	3.1
Tires and Tubes	257.9	0.9	3.2
Tractor Parts	232.3	2.2[2]	9.1
Transformers & Power Regulators	224.5	0.6[2]	6.0
Valves & Fittings	323.3	0	2.9
Wiring Devices	324.5	0.3	7.6

1) Thirty-day figures seasonally adjusted, except where noted 2) Not seasonally adjusted